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BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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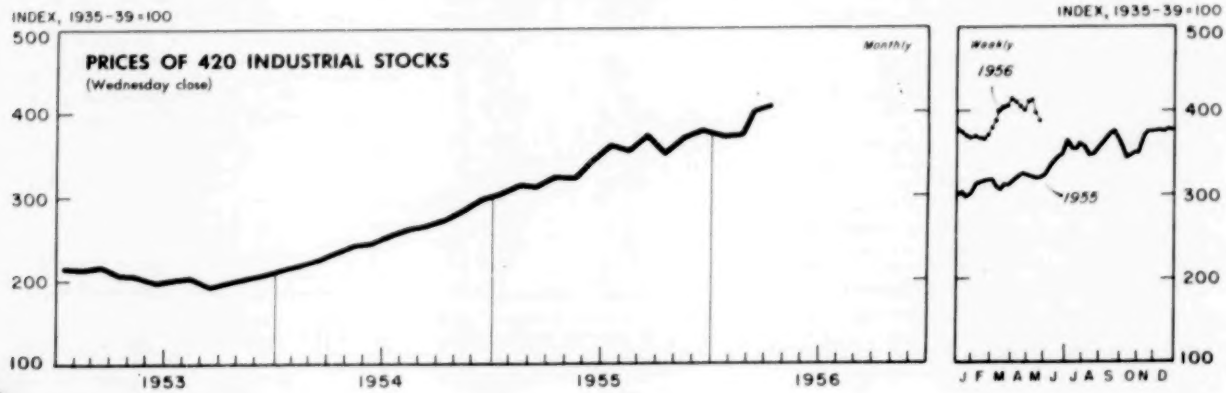
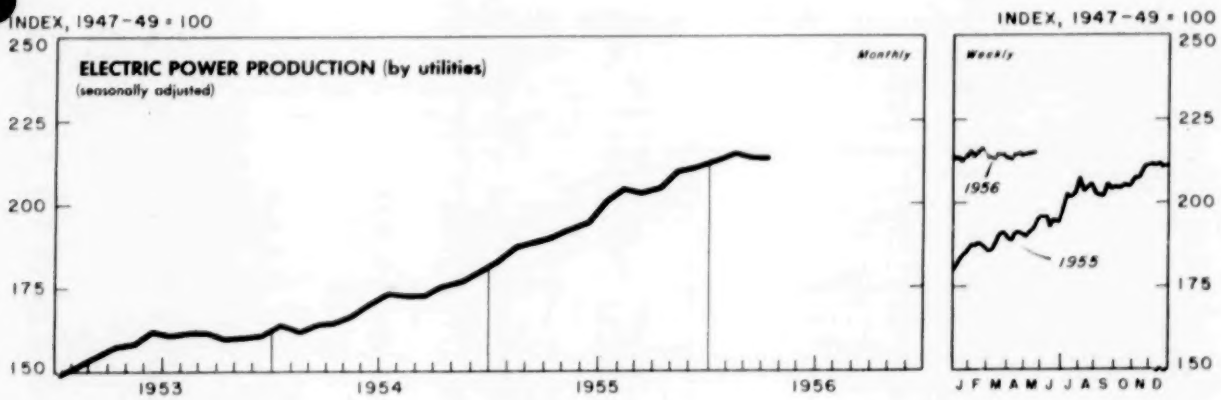
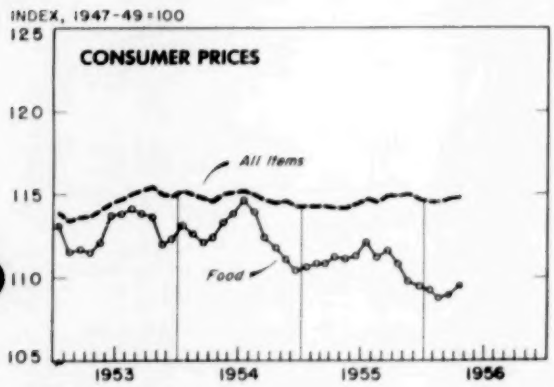
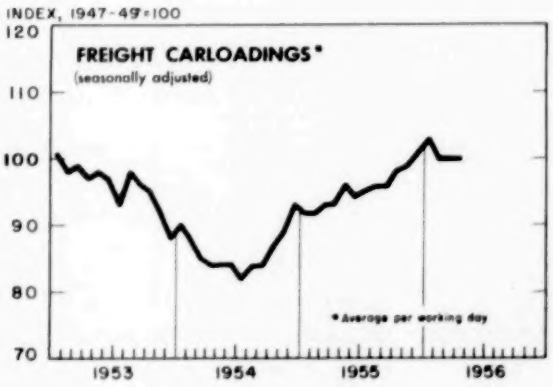
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS









WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1955		1956			
	May 21	May 28	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*109.9	.....	113.9	114.3	114.4
Farm products.....do....	.....	*91.2	.....	88.8	90.8	91.2
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*102.1	.....	100.8	101.8	102.3
All other.....do....	.....	*115.5	.....	121.8	121.8	121.7
22 commodities 2/.....do....	89.3	89.1	92.1	90.8	90.8	90.4
Department store sales.....do....	115	114	125	129	122	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,378	1,290	1,344	1,326	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,255	1,180	1,257	1,242	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	29,877	29,826	30,181	30,296	30,359	30,317
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do....	24,908	24,834	25,266	25,325	25,298	25,310
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,853	18,673	18,767	18,848	18,710	18,809
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	646	481	464	546	453	536
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	56,294	56,437	55,896	55,559	54,999	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do....	21,496	21,512	21,591	21,599	21,638	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	84,679	84,280	85,448	84,887	85,241	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	33,743	33,296	27,357	26,939	27,082	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	22,737	22,641	28,053	28,031	28,203	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	7,657	7,686	8,430	8,457	8,471	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	226	204	277	258	279	.....
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.23	3.23	3.46	3.46	3.45	3.46
Stock prices,480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100..	283.3	286.7	353.8	354.4	343.1	335.1
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	317.6	321.7	411.6	412.2	397.7	387.4
Production:						
Bituminous coal 5/.....thous. of short tons..	1,524	1,541	1,665	1,670	1,633	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	9,730	9,976	10,815	10,837	10,875	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	208,087	198,282	135,398	127,775	126,771	130,206
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,676	6,655	7,084	7,029	7,071	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,338	2,326	2,373	2,343	2,345	2,396
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#96.9	#96.4	96.4	95.2	95.3	97.3
Freight carloadings, total 6/.....thous. of cars..	770	790	771	778	779	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	387	394	383	375	383	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week ended June 2, 1956; Production, 2,375 thous. short tons; operating rate, 96.5 percent. 6/ Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class I railroads. * Monthly index for May 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955		1956			
	March	April	January	February	March	April
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial and commercial failures:						
Failures, total.....number..	1,038	903	1,048	1,024	1,170	985
Commercial service.....do....	66	66	72	62	102	91
Construction.....do....	108	106	126	141	150	153
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	225	154	209	202	224	186
Retail trade.....do....	520	484	535	511	572	463
Wholesale trade.....do....	119	93	106	108	122	92
Liabilities (current), total.....thous. of dol..	41,209	35,968	42,890	49,189	42,622	41,871
Commercial service.....do....	2,916	2,229	2,974	1,920	2,015	2,900
Construction.....do....	4,468	6,450	6,163	9,881	7,089	6,967
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	16,921	12,653	14,442	17,647	15,649	17,142
Retail trade.....do....	11,972	10,765	14,936	14,693	12,430	10,772
Wholesale trade.....do....	4,932	3,871	4,375	5,048	5,439	4,090
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	114.3	114.2	114.6	114.6	114.7	1/ 114.9
Apparel.....do....	103.2	103.1	104.1	104.6	104.8	104.8
Food.....do....	110.8	111.2	109.2	108.8	109.0	109.6
Dairy products.....do....	105.4	104.6	107.3	107.3	106.9	106.4
Fruits and vegetables.....do....	112.0	117.5	112.6	113.3	114.8	116.7
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....	102.3	103.0	95.3	93.6	92.8	94.0
Housing.....do....	119.6	119.5	120.6	120.7	120.7	120.8
Gas and electricity.....do....	110.3	110.3	111.7	111.7	111.7	111.8
Housefurnishings.....do....	104.6	104.5	102.0	102.5	103.1	102.7
Rent.....do....	130.0	129.9	131.4	131.5	131.6	131.7
Medical care.....do....	127.0	127.3	130.7	130.9	131.4	131.6
Personal care.....do....	113.5	113.7	118.5	118.9	119.2	119.5
Reading and recreation.....do....	106.6	106.6	107.3	107.5	107.7	108.2
Transportation.....do....	127.3	125.3	126.8	126.9	126.7	126.4
Other goods and services.....do....	119.8	119.8	120.8	120.9	121.2	121.4
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by—						
Wholesale prices.....1947-49=100..	90.9	90.5	89.4	89.0	88.7	2/ 88.0
Consumer prices.....do....	87.5	87.6	87.3	87.3	87.2	2/ 87.0
Retail food prices.....do....	90.3	89.9	91.6	91.9	91.7	2/ 91.2

1/ Index based on 1935-39=100 is 192.1. 2/ Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by—wholesale prices, 46.0; consumer prices, 52.1; retail food prices, 45.2.

ITEM	1955 March	1955 April	1956 January	1956 February	1956 March	1956 April
COMMODITY PRICES - Continued						
Wholesale prices of selected commodities:						
Wheat flour, short patents (Minn.)...dol. per 100 lb. sack..	6.805	6.645	6.180	6.220	6.110	p6.215
Calves, vealers (Chicago).....dol. per 100 lb..	25.00	26.00	28.00	28.00	24.50	p24.50
Lumber:						
Douglas fir, dim.,No. 1, 2" x 4", R.L....dol.per M bd.ft..	85.071	85.624	89.180	89.180	r89.320	p89.838
Southern pine, boards, No.2, com., 1" x 6", R.L.....do....	77.527	77.256	80.588	81.294	r84.079	p83.802
Ponderosa pine, boards, No. 3, common, 1" x 8".....do....	75.17	77.20	79.43	81.30	r82.31	p83.96
Pig iron:						
Basic (furnace).....dol. per long ton..	56.00	56.00	58.50	58.50	58.50	p60.00
Foundry, No. 2, Northern.....do....	56.50	56.50	59.00	59.00	59.00	p60.49
Steel:						
Structural shapes (carbon), f.o.b. mill.....dol. per lb..	.0452	.0452	.0487	.0487	.0487	p.0487
Scrap, no.1,heavy melting (Pittsburgh)..dol.per long ton..	38.50	38.50	54.50	49.00	48.50	p54.49
Coal, bituminous:						
Screenings, indust. use, f.o.b. car at mine dol. per short ton..	4.480	4.401	4.732	4.731	4.779	p5.046
Large domestic sizes, f.o.b. car at mine.....do....	6.920	6.369	7.233	7.229	7.071	p6.577
Gasoline, regular grade (New York).....dol. per gal..	.125	.125	.130	.130	.125	p.125
Petroleum, crude (Oklahoma-Kansas), at wells..dol. per bbl..	2.82	2.82	2.82	2.82	2.82	p2.82
FINANCE						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....mil. of dol..	11,089	4,941	4,915	7,158	12,499	5,562
Receipts, net.....do....	9,741	3,732	4,684	6,195	11,313	4,082
Customs.....do....	60	51	59	57	59	59
Income and employment taxes.....do....	9,906	3,976	3,727	5,959	11,344	4,461
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	995	795	853	944	963	894
All other receipts.....do....	127	119	275	198	133	147
Expenditures, total.....do....	5,894	5,228	5,274	4,950	5,399	5,387
Interest on public debt.....do....	478	355	625	553	559	565
Veterans' services and b nefits.....do....	386	383	401	398	p400	p406
Major national security.....do....	1/ 3,759	1/ 3,382	3,005	3,214	p3,284	p3,232
All other expenditures.....do....	1,271	1,108	1,243	786	p1,156	p1,185
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural).....thous. of lb..	48,100	45,256	49,619	42,662	41,851	.....
Acetic anhydride.....do....	78,590	72,127	77,404	73,385	79,150	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).....do....	1,509	1,217	1,225	1,931	1,728	.....
Creosote oil.....thous. of gal..	11,064	10,167	r9,539	r8,787	2/ 10,166	.....
DDT.....thous. of lb..	10,456	9,216	11,592	10,742	11,083	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%).....do....	4,571	9,006	9,360	7,702	6,791	.....
Ethylene glycol.....do....	60,605	55,756	90,684	81,911	81,632	.....
Formaldehyde (37% HCHO).....do....	111,366	104,641	111,691	110,519	121,906	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%).....thous. of gal..	167	185	206	178	189	.....
Synthetic (100%).....do....	15,531	15,886	19,020	17,070	20,703	.....
Phthalic anhydride.....thous. of lb..	30,450	29,263	30,522	28,714	29,625	.....
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb..	4,281	3,265	3,508	r3,426	4,296	.....
Molding and extrusion materials.....do....	7,422	7,574	6,492	7,178	8,007	.....
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes.....do....	483	427	519	497	501	.....
Other cellulose plastics.....do....	744	584	450	501	488	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do....	41,459	39,448	43,407	42,799	43,932	.....
Polystyrene.....do....	44,185	41,824	47,002	40,401	43,272	.....
Urea and melamine resins.....do....	24,956	23,711	26,411	26,507	25,161	.....
Vinyl resins.....do....	59,767	56,773	66,890	61,607	66,675	.....
Alkyd resins.....do....	38,899	38,835	32,409	32,392	33,482	.....
Rosin modifications.....do....	12,126	12,096	10,823	12,055	11,468	.....
ELECTRIC POWER						
Sales to ultimate customers, total (Edison Electric Institute).....mil. of kw.-hr..	*38,256	**r37,712	44,752	43,994	.....	.....
Commercial and industrial:						
Small light and power.....do....	*6,384	**r6,312	7,054	6,924	.....	.....
Large light and power.....do....	*18,472	**r18,191	22,680	22,441	.....	.....
Railways and railroads.....do....	*437	**399	427	398	.....	.....
Residential or domestic.....do....	*11,071	**10,958	12,529	12,200	.....	.....
Rural (distinct rural rates).....do....	*601	**605	683	684	.....	.....
Street and highway lighting.....do....	*420	**378	455	414	.....	.....
Other public authorities.....do....	*829	**822	877	891	.....	.....
Interdepartmental.....do....	*41	**48	48	42	.....	.....
Revenue from sales to ultimate customers (Edison Electric Institute).....thous. of dol..	*659,163	**r654,843	734,354	725,160	.....	.....
FOODSTUFFS						
Meats, production, total.....mil. of lb..	1,962	1,736	2,312	2,018	2,128	1,930
Beef and veal.....thous. of lb..	890,867	844,205	1,034,824	909,851	958,896	945,019
Lamb and mutton.....do....	61,429	56,802	64,032	56,948	59,290	55,754
Pork, including lard.....do....	1,009,567	834,963	1,212,803	1,051,573	1,109,446	931,304
Lard.....do....	189,884	158,080	240,907	203,189	224,101	182,846
Coffee, visible supply.....thous. of bags..	517	520	704	793	770	753

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. * Data are for January 1955. ** Data are for February 1955. 1/ Not entirely comparable with data beginning July 1955. 2/ Incomplete; comparable amount for February 1956 is 8,047,000 gallons.

ITEM	1955		1956			
	March	April	January	February	March	April
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Castings, gray iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....thous. of short tons..	934.2	966.1	1,157.8	1,140.8	1,162.6	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	1,314.9	1,293.7	1,249.5	1,214.8	1,255.4	.....
For sale.....do....	688.7	679.9	677.0	680.5	715.2	.....
Castings, malleable iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....short tons..	99,730	104,091	116,520	113,616	106,491	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	102,364	101,226	93,562	93,533	86,941	.....
For sale.....do....	60,063	57,397	54,618	54,466	46,266	.....
Pig iron, production.....thous. of short tons..	6,464	6,385	7,050	6,603	7,149	6,925
Castings, steel:						
Shipments, total.....short tons..	127,460	120,053	158,618	165,398	r170,045	.....
For sale, total.....do....	98,926	92,237	123,343	128,598	130,839	.....
Railway specialties.....do....	19,339	16,646	27,954	30,833	31,991	.....
Machine tools (metal-cutting types):						
New orders.....mo. avg. shipments, 1945-47=100..	214.6	178.1	389.6	291.2	r322.6	p282.4
Shipments.....do....	202.5	180.1	184.7	218.4	250.8	p242.8
Vacuum cleaners, standard type, sales billed.....thousands..	356.4	241.9	302.2	286.4	395.7	352.9
Washers, domestic, sales billed.....do....	370.6	313.5	393.7	405.6	405.7	324.2
RUBBER AND RUBBER PRODUCTS						
Tires and tubes:						
Pneumatic casings:						
Production.....thousands..	10,083	9,153	8,979	8,897	9,193	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	9,907	9,937	8,203	7,473	8,627	.....
Original equipment.....do....	4,780	4,457	3,402	3,342	3,466	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	15,609	14,890	19,517	20,933	21,562	.....
Inner tubes:						
Production.....do....	3,234	2,836	2,917	2,969	3,347	.....
Shipments.....do....	3,327	3,250	3,608	2,921	2,962	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	8,217	7,963	6,294	6,547	6,848	.....
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Men's apparel, cuttings: 1/						
Tailored garments:						
Suits.....thous. of units..	2,065	1,636	1,876	1,860	2,285	1,796
Overcoats and topcoats.....do....	335	372	272	288	410	452
Trousers (separate), dress and sport.....do....	5,940	5,856	5,280	5,664	5,940	5,328
Shirts (woven fabrics), dress and sport.....thous. of doz..	2,225	1,908	1,924	2,060	2,285	1,812
Work clothing:						
Dungarees and waistband overalls.....do....	435	416	328	380	345	328
Shirts.....do....	415	360	408	416	450	408
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Motor vehicles, factory sales, total.....number..	894,597	881,840	690,253	663,586	689,984	654,333
Coaches, total.....do....	325	519	253	278	434	371
Domestic.....do....	267	501	242	274	405	360
Passenger cars, total.....do....	791,280	753,434	591,032	560,924	583,169	552,881
Domestic.....do....	765,663	727,907	569,846	536,680	554,761	529,945
Trucks, total.....do....	102,992	127,887	98,968	102,384	106,381	101,081
Domestic.....do....	86,060	110,176	83,752	83,752	86,998	82,400

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Data for March 1955 and March 1956 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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